

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:: Decaux, Gauthier, Van Houtte )  
PCT Serial No.: PCT/GB00/01253 )  
Filed: Herewith )  
For: FUEL FILTER )  
No.: 68,142-015 )

**PRELIMINARY  
AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the present application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please replace claim 1 with the following:

1. (Amended). A fuel filter comprising a filter body having opposing filter body ends, the filter body defining an internal chamber within which a filter medium is to be located, the filter medium including a filter member having a first end secured to a support plate and a second end secured to the filter body, the filter body being of multi-part construction, the parts of the filter body being non-removably, sealingly secured to one another, the filter body being shaped to define an inlet port and an outlet port communicating with dirty and clean sides of the filter medium, respectively both the inlet and the outlet ports being positioned at the same body end of the filter body.

[Please replace claim 2 with the following:]

2. (Amended). The filter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the parts of the filter body are secured to one another by means of a friction welding technique.